

1 **51079/RRP/R79 -**

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. 1. A replaceable-blade knife, comprising:

 upper and lower body portions forming a knife handle, the
portions being secured together to define a recess
therebetween, the lower body portion having an extended front
10 surface configured to receive a cutting blade;

 a blade-clamping bar mounted on the lower body portion
adjacent the upper body portion, and movable between a closed
position over the cutting blade, and an open position in which
15 the cutting blade can be removed, repositioned, or replaced;

 clamping means for tightly securing the blade-clamping
bar in the closed position against the cutting blade, the
clamping means being releaseable to enable the bar to be moved
20 to the open position;

 a spare-blade holder mounted in the recess between the
upper and lower body portions, and adapted to hold spare
cutting blades, the holder being movable between a closed
25 position in which the spare blades are protectively concealed
within the handle, and an open position in which the spare
blades are accessible for removal or replacement;

30 locking means on the spare-blade holder and an
adjacent position of the blade-clamping bar for locking the
holder in the closed position when the bar is in its closed
position, and releasing the holder for movement to its open
position when the bar is in its open position.

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2. The knife of claim 1, in which the locking means
comprises a lug on the blade-clamping bar and extending toward
5 an adjacent portion of the spare-blade holder, and a recessed
seat on the holder which receives the lug when the bar and
holder are in closed positions to lock the holder in the
closed position, the lug moving away from the seat when the
bar is moved to the open position to enable movement of the
10 holder to an open position.

3. The knife of claim 2, in which the clamping means is
a threaded fastener with an enlarged head bearing on the
blade-clamping bar, and threaded into the extended front
15 surface of the lower body portion.

4. The knife of claim 3, in which a resilient O-ring is
positioned around a shank of the fastener in a recess beneath
the clamping bar, and is compressed when the fastener is
20 tightened, the compressed O-ring urging the blade-clamping bar
and lower body position apart when the fastener is loosened.

5. The knife of claim 4, in which the threaded fastener
has enlarged head fitting in a recess in the clamping bar, the
25 enlarged head including a D-ring handle.

6. The knife of claim 5 in which the blade is
configured for cutting carpet.

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